



Soulbury Parish Council Buckinghamshire

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 18 September 2023 at 7:30 pm

Those present: Cllr Maurice Cross Vice Chairman
Cllr John Day
Cllr Nigel Kemal
Cllr Margaret Rowe
Cllr Alan Stevens
Cllr Victor Wright Chairman
Wendy Taylor Clerk
7 members of the public (MOP)

1	Apologies for absence	Action
	Apologies received from Cllrs Jilly Jordan and Salina Darbyshire-Mackay.	
2	Approval of minutes	
	Minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2023 were approved and signed by Cllr Wright.	
3	Matters arising	
	Cllr Kemal advised that the two promised benches had not yet been bought but he will procure them in the next couple of weeks.	NK
4	Finance	
	<p>a) Accounts paid Please see attached list</p> <p>b) Monies received: Please see attached list</p> <p>In addition to the above, two payments have been made to Heart and Soulbury Gardens for a) church cemetery (£100) and b) village mowing and strimming (£200). We have also received the second of two precept payments of £12,500.00.</p> <p>Balance at bank as at 18 Sept 2023 was £50,170.89. Bank statements for July and August 2023 were signed by Cllr Wright.</p>	
5	Governance	
	<p>a) No further updates received regarding our AGAR submission.</p> <p>b) The Clerk is booked on training for H&S and Compliance on 19/9/23 and Planning Demystified on 21/11/23. Clerk asked if any councillors would also like to attend Planning Demystified - Cllrs Kemal and Wright want to attend. Clerk will wait a few days to ascertain final numbers and will book.</p>	Clerk

6	Planning	
	<p>23/02175: 37 The Green, Soulbury, LU7 0DD - Change of use from agricultural to residential and construction of link and conversion of existing building to form a single dwelling. Neighbours raised concerns at the meeting and they had also put their objections onto the planning portal. Council did not feel they had any further comment to add to their objections.</p> <p>23/02273: The Pool House, Stockgrove Park House, Stockgrove Park, Soulbury, LU70BB - Listed building application for the addition of rear light tunnels and extractor vents. Subdivision of the hallway to create an additional room and the creation of a bathroom in the basement. No objection</p> <p>23/02318: Acorn Barn, Broad Oak Farm, Leighton Road, Three Locks, Soulbury, LU7 0DX - Householder application for an outbuilding. No objection.</p> <p>23/02414: The Cow Shed, Leighton Road, Three Locks, Soulbury, MK17 9DD Internal and external amendments to include ancilliary residential outbuildings, retaining walls, boundary walls, piers and entrance gate and a change to the residential curtilage (retrospective). Parish Council is still concerned at the number of retrospective applications that come forward. Because of this the parish council objects to this application.</p> <p>23/02553: Ange Hill, Leighton Road, Three Locks, Soulbury, MK17 9DD - Householder application for proposed lower ground floor, ground and first floor extensions, including an increase in height of existing ridge and dormers to first floor, balconies and terraces. Associated ground works (amendment to approval 22/03128). No objection.</p> <p>6.1 Green Farm planning: new Heritage Officer who likes the ideas for retaining house and developing the garage area. However, to go through planning again the developer will have to provide all the bat/newt and other reports again which have been done 3 times already. Because the Planning Department drag their feet at every possible opportunity the reports go out of date. As these cost £45,000 approx each time the developer is now having to consider selling the land as another £45,000 is not something they want to repeat.</p> <p>6.2 The Clerk sent the letter to Bucks Planning Department which, amongst a list of complaints, asked for a member of the planning team to attend a parish council meeting to discuss the absurdity of the planning process involved with Green Farm. We have been told that it is not appropriate for them to attend but they are happy to meet with the Chair and Clerk. The Clerk will sent some dates to get the meeting arranged. The Clerk also advised that the Planning Hub are now arranging 'surgeries' so if it is deemed necessary to use this service as a result of a discussion at a parish council meeting we can arrange a 20 minute appointment.</p> <p>6.3 5G mast on Leighton Road - The Clerk sent the details of this upgrade to external interested parties and there were no objections. Parish councillors were also advised with no adverse comments made.</p> <p>6.4 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, and for a meeting to be arranged at the site.</p> <p>6.5 Fix my Street advised that someone had reported an unauthorised sign for a gunshop at a roundabout on the Stoke Hammond and Linslade Western Bypass. Agreed that if someone was passing they could take it down.</p> <p>6.6 Clerk advised of three planning consultations relating to Permitted Development Rights, Local Plans and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

7	Environment	
	<p>7.1 Childrens Play Areas</p> <p>Cllr Day had obtained a quotation from Aaron Fencing to provide new fencing around the children’s play area on the Millennium Green. It was unanimously agreed to accept the quote and to get the project under way.</p> <p>It was also agreed to put a message on the Community Hub Facebook page to ask for any unwanted childrens toy equipment as the items currently in use are showing their age.</p> <p>7.2 Churchyard mowing</p> <p>Further discussion on keeping this area tidy. Current number of hours the PC provides are not enough. Again it was pointed out that the parish council has no obligation to do this work and that it is the responsibility of th Parochial Church Council. The Parish Council, however, did want to stresss that it is happy to assist in the maintenance but it is not to be the sole provider of said assistance. Cllr Kemal was asked to take this back to the PCC for them to arrange a team of people to do the job when it needs doing which is what other churches in the area do as they have no support from their Parish/Town Councils at all.</p> <p>7.3 Fountain</p> <p>A plan of the fountain is required. A letter is also required from Robert Bone which says he does not own the fountain, that he fully supports the Parish Council in any way he can and that the Parish Council can access his land to carry out whatever work needs to be done. Post meeting note: Clerk has spoken to Robert Bone and all of the above is fine. We just have to ensure that if we access his field for any reason and there is livestock (sheep) in it to ensure his fencing is not compromised. Clerk will write the letter, Robert will check he is happy with it so it can be sent to the solicitor with the plan.</p> <p>7.4 Allotments</p> <p>Steve Gudgeon will arrange to clear the 3 sites in order them to be allocated. Re Plot 4 a letter of cessation was sent to the plot holder as many complaints have been received about the condition of the plot. There is a history of non-cultivation, rent chasing and numerous reasons for non-cultivation but the area does have a waiting list. If the plot holder uses the area as ‘decompression’ from the rigours of life then there are plenty of alternatives for that - plots are for cultivating. If the plot holder has issues requiring a quiet area the parish council actually want to be supportive and to this end Cllr Wright will visit him and offer alternatives that do not require the pressure of constant attention.</p> <p>7.5 Village Christmas Tree</p> <p>A member of the public raised the question of an alternative to a conventional Christmas tree on the village green that would be easier to erect and look the part. It would be a flag pole centre and LED lights would attach at the top and splay outwards towards the ground. Some councillors worried that the children would be expecting a conventional tree. After discussion it was decided to purchase the LED ‘tree’ and have a conventional one by the beacon but ensure the shape of the tree and lights on it befit the village. Another MOP suggested using a farmer’s telehandler with a platform for a person to aid the proper installation of the lights this year. The LED ‘tree’ will placed at another location in the village dependant on power supply.</p> <p>7.6 Lighting on corner of High Road and Stewkley Road</p> <p>A couple of complaints received about adding another street lamp to this area so a price was obtained from EON for 3 LED bollards instead amounting to £4,000 + VAT. Parish Council has budgetted £7,000 for this project. Several Cllrs want assurance that the light is not so bright that it could be confused with headlights and to obtain a image of the proposed bollards.</p>	<p>Cllr Day</p> <p>Cllr Kemal</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Wright</p> <p>Clerk</p>

8	Report from County Councillor	
	Cllr Jordan was unable to attend this meeting but did send her full report to the Clerk who will add it to the parish website.	Clerk
9	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.	
10	Millennium Green	
	Concert in the Park event is 10 Sept 2023. Financially the event broke even. Good event with audience of 79. Not helped by rain/thunderstorm. Discussion around the lack of help to run the event, put up and taken down marquees, moving tables chairs from parish hall. Left to the usual handful of stalwarts again. Bonfire night is on 4 Nov 23 and it was felt that an entrance charge be made. SMG committee to decide on this.	
11	Public Participation	
	Nothing brought forward.	
12	Any other business	
	12.1 Bucks Council spending priorities - Clerk made everyone aware of the consultation for the Council's spending priorities for 2024-2025. Council did not want to be involved. Clerk advised she has a printed copy of the consultation survey should anyone want it. Survey closes on 15/10/23. 12.2 Clerk raised the issue of the elections next year and the possibility of current councillors wanting to stand down. National Association of Local Councils (NALC) are running events for those interested in learning about the role of councillors. Democracy in Action online event is to take place on 14/11/23. Details will be added to the website and Community Hub. Cllr Stevens asked that we get a logical explanation regarding the resurfacing of Gr Brickhill Road. Clerk will add this to her email to Matt Wincup.	Clerk
13	Next meeting	
	The next meeting will be held on Monday, 16 October, 2023 in Soulbury Parish Hall at 7:30 pm. Please note the dates for 2023: 20/11/23, 18/12/23.	All

Distribution:

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

Payments and receipts as at 12 September 2023

Payments		£
British Gas	Parish Hall Gas	14.25
RBL	Poppy wreaths	42.25
CS Maintenance	CSM0507	180.00
Playsafety	RoSPA checks	192.60

NPower	Streetlighting	43.55
WendyTaylor	Reimbursement for Sage Software Licence	9.60
Mrs S N Green	Parish Hall Cleaning	20.00
CS Maintenance	CSM0508	180.00
Wendy Taylor	Saga software licence	8.40
Wendy Taylor	soulburyparish.co.uk domain renewal	38.39
Zurich Insurance	Parish Council Public Liability cover	1,254.91
CS Maintenance	CSM0509	180.00
Eon Next	Parish Hall Power	36.21
Heart and Soulbury Gardens	Strim/mow cemetary	80.00
Heart and Soulbury Gardens	Strim Mount Pleasant playarea	160.00
NPower	Streetlighting	44.44
CS Maintenance	CSM0510	180.00
Victor Wright	Defib pads	140.40
BMKALC	Finance training for Clerk	70.00
WendyTaylor	Reimbursement for Sage Software Licence	9.60
Eon Next	Parish Hall Power	26.81
CS Maintenance	CSM0511	180.00
NPower	Streetlighting	43.97
Mrs S N Green	Parish Hall Cleaning	40.00
Heart and Soulbury Gardens	Strim/mow cemetary	100.00
Heart and Soulbury Gardens	Strim /mow areas in village	200.00
Receipts		
Soulbury Millennium Green	Reimbursement for RoSPA check	80.25
WI	Reimbursement for Poppy Wreath	20.00
Allen D	Parish Hall booking fee	30.00
Allan Robinson	Parish Hall booking fee	70.00
WI	Poppy wreath	20.00
Sales	Coronation mugs	32.50
Parish Hall	Deposit - petty cash	34.00
Donation	Cash	10.00
J Bernardez	Parish Hall booking fee	30.00
Buckinghamshire Council	Payment 2 of 2 annual precept	12,500.00